

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/817,226

Examiner

Nicholas C. Pachol

Applicant(s)

BIE ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/24/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 14, and 15 (renumbered as 1-13).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 04/02/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20090702
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Nicholas C Pachol/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Pages 6-8, filed 04/24/09, with respect to claims 1-11, 14, and 15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 103 of claims 1-11, 14, and 15 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve Funk on 07/02/09.

The application has been amended as follows: Please amend Claim 1 according to the changes stated below:

Claim 1: A job control system for controlling a job in a document processing system in which processing system a number of tasks is performed in a workflow, the job control system comprising:

an input source with a user interface arranged to enable a user to define and change a set of job parameters;

an identifier arranged to identify and mark dependencies of results of said job to said set of job parameters, wherein said results are selected from a group of

intermediate results of said job and final results of said job, and wherein said set of job parameters are selected from a group of parameters for said workflow, parameters within said workflow, and parameters for individual task processors in a production plan defining processing of said job;

a verifier arranged to verify, during job execution, a change in a particular parameter out of said set of job parameters, and to determine a condition if (a) a particular result out of said results and obtained before said change in said particular parameter is independent of said particular parameter, or (b) if an effect of said change in said particular parameter on said particular result is within a given limit; so that said particular result is still useable despite said change in said particular parameter;

a memory arranged to store said particular result that is still useable; and

a controller arranged to reuse said particular result only when said verifier has determined that the condition (a) or (b) has been met.

Please amend Claim 9 according to the changes stated below:

Claim 9: The job control system according to claim 8 wherein said display device is arranged to display said dependencies to said job parameters of said useable results.

Please amend Claim 10 according to the changes stated below:

Claim 10: A method for controlling a job in a document processing system in which processing system a number of tasks is performed in a workflow, characterized in that the method comprises:

identifying and marking dependencies of results of said job to job parameters, wherein said results are selected from a group of intermediate results of said job and

final results of said job, and wherein said job parameters are selected from a group of parameters for said workflow, parameters within said workflow, and parameters for individual task processors in a production plan defining processing of said job;

verifying, during job execution, a change in a particular parameter out of said job parameters, and determining a condition if (a) a particular result out of said results and obtained before said change in said particular parameter is independent of said particular parameter, or (b) if an effect of said change in said particular parameter on said particular result is within a given limit; so that said particular result is still useable despite said change in said particular parameter;

storing the still useable results; and

reusing said particular result only when the condition (a) or (b) has been met during the verifying step.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-11, 14, and 15 (renumbered as 1-13) are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a job control system for enabling a user to define or change parameters for or within a workflow of processing a number of tasks in a document processing system. Independent claims 1 and 10 identify the uniquely distinct features **inter alia "reusing the result when it has been determined that the result is**

independent of the changed parameter” as stated in applicant's arguments dated 04/24/09 in the first paragraph of page 8.

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11, 14, and 15 (renumbered as 2-9, 11-13) are also allowed due to its dependency on the allowed base claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas C. Pachol whose telephone number is 571-270-3433. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thr, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (EST), Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. C. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

07/02/09

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625